

POLITICAL SCIENCE-STATISTICS

The Political Science Department:

Department website: <http://www.polisci.columbia.edu>

Office location: 710 International Affairs Building

Office contact: 212-854-3707

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Shigeo Hirano, 740 International Affairs Building; 212-854-3955; sh145@columbia.edu

Academic Affairs Coordinator:TBA

The Study of Political Science

The discipline of political science focuses on issues of power and governance and, in particular, on political institutions, both formal and informal. It also focuses on political behavior, political processes, political economy, and state-society relations.

The field consists of four substantive subfields: *American politics*, which covers such topics as national and local politics, elections, and constitutional law; *comparative politics*, which aims at understanding the political systems of other countries, both by studying individual states and by engaging in cross-national comparisons; *international relations*, which deals with the ways that states and other political actors behave in the international arena, including such topics as security, foreign policies, international organizations, and international economic relations; and *political theory*, which analyzes the history of normative political thought as well as of analytic concepts such as the nature of justice or liberty.

Other broad topics, such as "political economy," or the study of the relationships between economic and political processes, overlap with the subfields, but also constitute a separate program (see below). Methodology, including statistical analysis and formal modeling, also occupies an important place in the discipline.

Student Advising Consulting Advisers

Economics-Political Science Advisers:

Economics: Prof. Susan Elmes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, 1006 International Affairs Building; se5@columbia.edu

Political Science: Prof. Carlo Prato, 718 International Affairs Building; 212-854-3977; cp2928@columbia.edu

Political Science-Statistics Advisers:

Political Science: Prof. Andrew Gelman, 1255 Amsterdam Ave., Room 1016; 212-851-2164; gelman@stat.columbia.edu

Statistics: Prof. Ronald Neath, 612 West 115th Street, Room 612; 212-853-1398; rcn2112@columbia.edu

Statistics: Prof. Gabriel Young, 612 West 115th Street, Room 614; 212-853-1395; gjy2107@columbia.edu

The Department of Political Science offers a variety of advising resources to provide undergraduate majors and minors with the information and support needed to successfully navigate through the program. These resources are described below.

Undergraduate Advising

The department trains and employs political science Ph.D. candidates who advise undergraduate students regarding program requirements, course selection, and transfer and study-abroad credits. The advisers are also available to discuss research interests, internships, and post-college plans.

Students can reach the advisers by email at polisciadvicing@columbia.edu.

Requesting a Faculty Adviser

Students may request a faculty adviser by completing the Faculty Adviser Request Form and submitting it during the first two weeks of the semester. The link to the current adviser request form may be found in the undergraduate forms library on the department website.

Students may consult with their faculty adviser for any substantive issue, but the graduate-student advisers must approve planning forms and confirm that requirements have been fulfilled.

Director of Undergraduate Studies

The director of undergraduate studies oversees the department's undergraduate programs and is available during office hours. While a student's first stop for advising should be the graduate-student advisers, the director of undergraduate studies is available as an additional resource.

Economics–Political Science Adviser

Economics–political science majors may consult with the economics-political science adviser during office hours. However, students should also see a graduate-student adviser to discuss major requirements and confirm that requirements have been fulfilled.

Political Science–Statistics Adviser

Political science–statistics majors may consult with the political science–statistics adviser during office hours. However, students should also see a graduate-student adviser to discuss major requirements and confirm that requirements have been fulfilled.

Enrolling in Classes

Most undergraduate level courses in political science can be registered for by students at any level. However, seminars, which are smaller, more intensive discussion-based courses centered around a unifying theme or topic, require students to join a waitlist and then receive instructor approval to enroll. This is done to ensure that students in the major most in need of these seminars to fulfill their graduation requirements have priority to access them. Further information on seminars can be found on their page on the department website.

Additionally, undergraduate students may not register directly in SSOL for courses offered in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, which are designated by the prefix "GR." However, qualified students may cross-register for GSAS courses, with instructor permission, following steps outlined on the relevant page on the department website.

Preparing for Graduate Study

Students interested in graduate study offered by the Department of Political Science should consult the department website's resources on graduate programs, which include M.A., B.A./M.A., and Ph.D. programs. Additionally, the graduate-student advisers can offer advice about and help with graduate school applications.

Coursework Taken Outside of Columbia

Advanced Placement

The department grants credit toward the major for work completed under the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) Advanced Placement Program. Students receive 3 academic credits and exemption from POLS UN1201 INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS or POLS UN1501 INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS for scores of 5 in the United States and Comparative Government and Politics AP Exams.

Barnard College Courses

Barnard College courses may fulfill Columbia major requirements; however, Barnard courses do not follow the Columbia numbering system and cannot be used to determine the subfield within which a course falls. Barnard colloquia are open to students with the permission of the instructor; however, Barnard colloquia may not be used to fulfill the seminar requirement, though they may be used to fulfill subfield or elective requirements. Note that admission to Barnard colloquia is by application to the Barnard Political Science Department only. Please consult with the Barnard Political Science Department for more information.

Transfer Courses

For the political science major, a maximum of three courses in political science may be transferred from other institutions, including study abroad and AP credit. For the economics-political science and political science-statistics interdisciplinary majors, a maximum of two courses in political science may be transferred from other institutions. For the political science minor, a maximum of one course in political science may be transferred from other institutions. All transfer credits must be approved in writing by the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the graduate-student advisers. Students wishing to count transfer credits toward the major or minor should send the graduate-student advisers their transfer credit report, the syllabi of the courses they want to count toward departmental requirements, and a statement of how they want to apply the transfer credits to the requirements.

Study Abroad Courses

Study abroad programs are one way students can enrich their Columbia education by spending time immersed in other places and cultures. However, for counting study abroad courses for credit toward a political science major or minor, students should consult the above guidance on transfer courses.

Summer Courses

Political Science (POLS) summer courses taken through the School of Professional Studies are eligible to count towards the major or minor.

Undergraduate Research and Senior Thesis

Undergraduate Research in Courses

All majors write a research paper in two seminars or in the Honors Seminar. Seminars are small, discussion-based courses focused on a research topic in political science. Each semester the department offers a wide range of seminars in each subfield. Students are expected to attend and participate in these courses, as well as to write an original research paper. Some students will write a senior thesis in the Honors Seminar. Details about writing a senior thesis are below.

Senior Thesis Coursework and Requirements

Students may elect to write a thesis for consideration for departmental honors as described below.

Department Honors and Prizes

Department Honors

The department offers an honors program for a limited number of seniors who want to undertake substantial research projects and write honors theses. The honors thesis is expected to be about 75 pages in length and of exceptional quality.

Honors students perform research as part of a full-year honors seminar (POLS UN3998-POLS UN3999, 8 points total) during their senior year, in place of the seminar requirement for majors. Honors students may, however, take additional seminars to fulfill other course requirements for the major. Theses are due in late March or early April. To be awarded departmental honors, the student must satisfy all the requirements for the major, maintain a 3.6 GPA in the major, and complete a thesis of sufficiently high quality to merit honors.

The honors seminar director provides general direction for the seminar and supervises all students. Each student also works with a faculty member in his or her major subfield (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, or political theory) and a teaching assistant. The honors seminar meets weekly for part of the year and addresses general issues involved in research and thesis writing, such as how to develop research questions and projects, methodology, sources of evidence, and outlining and drafting long papers. The sessions are also used for group discussions of students' research and thesis presentations. Students are also expected to meet periodically with the supervising professor and preceptor.

Students who wish to apply to the Honors Seminar must notify the department in writing by the end of the spring semester of the junior year. Please check the department website for the official deadline. Normally no more than 10% of graduating majors receive departmental honors in a given academic year. Applicants are required to have already completed the methods requirement for the major.

In addition, students are encouraged to find a faculty sponsor for their thesis proposal. Research areas for the political science department faculty are listed on the department's website.

Students who are not accepted into the honors seminar or who decide after the application deadline that they would like to write an honors thesis may take one or two semesters POLS UN3901 Independent Research I and POLS UN3902 Independent Research II in order to write a thesis to submit for honors consideration. Any member of the department's full-time faculty may sponsor independent study courses. Part-time faculty are not obligated to sponsor these courses.

Students who choose this path must also complete all the requirements for the major and maintain a minimum major GPA of 3.6. Theses are due in late March or early April, and decisions about departmental honors are announced in May.

Academic Prizes

The Department of Political Science administers the following prizes and awards. Unless otherwise noted, students do not play an active part in the nomination process. Rather, faculty members nominate students

at their own discretion. Departmental prizes are reserved for political science majors.

Charles A. Beard Prize

A cash prize awarded every other year to the student who writes the best paper in political science during the academic year.

Caroline Phelps Stokes Prize

A cash prize established at the bequest of Caroline Phelps Stokes is awarded to a student who has been a degree candidate at Columbia College or Barnard College for at least one academic year, and who has written the best essay in course or seminar work on the general subject of human rights.

Allan J. Willen Memorial Prize

A cash prize awarded to the Columbia College student who writes the best seminar paper on a contemporary American political problem.

Edwin Robbins Academic Research/Public Service Fellowship

The Robbins Fellowship provides a stipend each summer for at least two political science students in Columbia College who will be engaged in research in important matters of politics or policymaking or who will be working, without other compensation, as interns in a governmental office, agency, or other public service organization. Each spring, the department invites students to submit fellowship proposals. Awards are announced in late April or early May.

Arthur Ross Foundation Award for Excellence in Political Science

A cash prize awarded to the GS senior with an outstanding record of accomplishment in the study of political science at Columbia.

Phyllis Stevens Sharp Fellowship in American Politics

The Phyllis Stevens Sharp Endowment Fund provides stipends each year during the summer for one or more Columbia College or School of General Studies students majoring in political science to support research in American politics or policy making, or otherwise uncompensated internships in a government office, agency, or other public service organization. Each spring, the department invites students to submit fellowship proposals. Awards are announced in late April or early May.

Other Information

Early Admission to the Master's Degree Program in Political Science for Columbia and Barnard Political Science Undergraduates

While the Department of Political Science does not offer a joint bachelor of arts/master's degree, it does allow Columbia and Barnard undergraduates to apply for early admission to its master's degree program.

Students should apply during the fall semester of their senior year for admission to the M.A. program in the following fall semester, after completion of the B.A. degree. The department and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences may award up to one-half residence unit of advanced standing and/or up to three courses (nine to twelve credits) of transfer credit for graduate courses (4000-level and above) taken at Columbia in excess of the requirements for the Columbia bachelor's

degree, as certified by the dean of the undergraduate school awarding the bachelor's degree.

For further information about the application process and minimum qualifications for early admission, please contact the director of undergraduate studies.

For further information about requirements for the M.A. degree, see <https://gsas.columbia.edu/degree-programs/ma-programs/political-science>.

Professors

Jagdish Bhagwati (also Economics)
 Allison Carnegie
 Alessandra Casella (also Economics)
 Jean L. Cohen
 Michael Doyle (University Professor)
 Robert Erikson
 Virginia Page Fortna
 Timothy Frye
 Ester Fuchs (School of International and Public Affairs)
 Andrew Gelman (also Statistics)
 Donald P. Green
 Bernard Harcourt (Law)
 Fredrick Harris
 Shigeo Hirano
 John Huber
 David C. Johnston
 Ira Katznelson (also History)
 Sudipta Kaviraj (Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies)
 Jeffrey Lax
 Mahmood Mamdani (Anthropology)
 Karuna Mantena
 M. Victoria Murillo (also School of International and Public Affairs)
 Andrew J. Nathan
 Sharyn O'Halloran (also School of International and Public Affairs)
 Justin Phillips (Chair)
 Robert Y. Shapiro
 Jack Snyder
 Michael Ting (also School of International and Public Affairs)
 Nadia Urbinati
 Gregory Wawro
 Andreas Wimmer (also Sociology)
 Keren Yarhi-Milo (also School of International and Public Affairs)

Associate Professors

Sarah Daly
 Alexander W. Hertel-Fernandez (also School of International and Public Affairs)
 Turkuler Isiksel
 Kimuli Kasara
 John Marshall
 Carlo Prato

Assistant Professors

Jonathan E. Collins (also Teachers College)
 Naoki Egami
 Nikhar Gaikwad
 Junyan Jiang
 Eunji Kim

Daniel Luban
 Andrew McCall
 Tamar Mitts (also School of International and Public Affairs)
 Calvin Thrall
 Yamil Velez

Visiting Professor

Kenneth M. McElwain

Lecturers

Yujin Choi
 Tenzin Dorjee
 Jacqueline C. Dugard
 Nathan Feldman
 Kevin Funk
 Elise Giuliano
 Tsveta Petrova
 Chiara Superti

On Leave

Prof. O'Halloran (2024-25)
 Profs. Egami, Huber, Shapiro, Urbinati, and Dr. Funk (Fall 2024)
 Profs. Frye, Luban, and Dr. Giuliano (Spring 2025)

Guidance for Undergraduate Students in the Department

Program Planning for all Students (policies)

Major Planning forms are available on the [department website](#).

Policy on Double-Counting Courses

- Policies about double-counting courses to fulfill requirements in more than one major may be found here:
 - [Columbia College](#)
 - [School of General Studies](#)
- Courses in the Core Curriculum do not fulfill requirements for the Political Science major.

Policy on Counting Credits outside the Department of Political Science

- Courses taken at other institutions or other Columbia departments may not be used to meet the requirement of a major or minor in political science without the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the department's undergraduate adviser. Students should secure such approval in advance of registration.

Pass/D/Fail and Grading Policy

- Students may use the Pass/D/Fail grading option for only the first course taken in the Department of Political Science.
 - The course used to fulfill the research methods requirement cannot be taken Pass/D/Fail.
- Students must receive a grade of at least C- in order for a course to count towards the major or concentration.

AP Credit Policy

- Students who receive transfer credit for one or more AP exams in political science may count a maximum of one AP course toward the major or minor, contingent upon completing an upper-level (3000 or higher) course with a grade of C or higher in the subfield in which the AP exam was taken. All transfer credits must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the [undergraduate adviser \(polisciadvicing@columbia.edu\)](mailto:polisciadvicing@columbia.edu).

Transfer Credit Policy

- For the political science major, a maximum of three courses in political science may be transferred from other institutions, including study abroad and AP credit. For the economics-political science and political science-statistics interdisciplinary majors, a maximum of two courses in political science may be transferred from other institutions. For the political science minor, a maximum of one course in political science may be transferred from other institutions. All transfer credits must be approved in writing by the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the graduate-student advisers.
- Students wishing to count transfer credits toward the major or minor should send the graduate-student advisers their transfer credit report, the syllabi of the courses they want to count toward departmental requirements, and a statement of how they want to apply the transfer credits to the requirements.

Independent Study Policy

- Independent Study (POLS UN3901 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH I in the fall or POLS UN3902 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH II in the spring) taken in fulfillment of course requirements for the major/minor must be taken for at least 3 points of credit.

Program Planning for all Students

To be planned with the department as soon as the student starts to register for courses toward the major. Students should not wait until they formally declare the major before meeting with an undergraduate adviser during the registration period to plan their programs for the major.

Course Numbering Structure

The department's course number scheme helps students identify at a glance the level, type, and subfield of a particular course.

Prefixes and Course Levels

The prefix and first digit of the course number indicates the level of the course.

- UN: courses numbered 1000-3999 are for undergraduates only
- GU: mixed level courses numbered 4000-4999 are open to both undergraduates and graduate students
- GR: courses numbered 5000-9999 are for graduate students

Undergraduates may register for courses designated with a GR prefix by [following the instructions for cross-registration](#).

Course Numbers and Subfields

Course distribution requirements for both undergraduate and graduate political science programs include depth and breadth with regard to subfields in the discipline. With the exception of undergraduate seminars,

the second digit of course numbers indicates the subfield of the course content. Undergraduate seminars are numbered in the UN39xx series, with the third digit indicating subfield.

Number Scheme for UN Lecture Courses

- X1XX: political theory
- X2XX: American politics
- X5XX: comparative politics
- X6XX: international relations
- X7XX: methodology

Number Scheme for Undergraduate Seminars

Undergraduate seminars are numbered "UN 39xx." The third digit of the course number indicates subfield.

- All sections of 3911 are seminars in political theory.
- All sections of 3921 are seminars in American politics.
- All sections of 3951 3952 are seminars in comparative politics.
- All sections of 3961 3962 are seminars in international relations.

Number Scheme for GU and GR Courses

For courses numbered GU4000-4999 and GR5000-9999, the second digit indicates subfield as follows:

- X1XX: political theory
- X2XX: American politics
- X4XX: comparative politics
- X7XX: methodology (see further detail about the scheme for methods courses below)
- X8XX: international relations

Number Scheme for Graduate Field Survey Courses

All graduate field surveys are numbered at the 6000 level, and are the only 6000-level courses the department offers.

- GR 6101: Issues in Political Theory
- GR 6210-6211: Issues and Debates in American Politics
- GR 6411-6412: Comparative Politics Survey I and II
- GR 6801: Theories of International Relations

Number Scheme for Methodology Courses

Methods courses may be offered as UN, GU, or GR courses at any level. Their second digit is 7. The third digit in the course number indicates the type of methodology covered in the course.

- X70X: basic tools (math and methods of inquiry)
- X71X: introductory statistics
- X73X: game theory
- X76X: applied empirical methods

- X78X: qualitative methods
- X79X: advanced statistics

Guidance for First-Year Students

Our [Considering a Political Science Major](#) page has answers to common questions new students may have about the program. The department website also contains plenty of helpful information about advising, placement, course planning, opportunities in the department, and more. If you are interested in studying political science, then it is strongly recommended that you read through the information available there, as well as considering the different available [fields of study](#).

Guidance for Transfer Students

Our [Considering a Political Science Major](#) page has answers to common questions transfer students may have about the program. The department website also contains plenty of helpful information about advising, placement, course planning, opportunities in the department, and more. If you are interested in studying political science, then it is strongly recommended that you read through the information available there, as well as considering the different available [fields of study](#).

After familiarizing themselves with the political science program, transfer students should consider submitting a transfer credit request for political science courses taken at their previous institution. Further information about counting transfer credits can be found in the requirements sections in this bulletin or on the department website.

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Major in Political Science

Course Requirements

Students must choose a **Primary Subfield** and a **Secondary Subfield** to study. The subfields are as follows:

- American Politics (AP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

The major in political science requires a minimum of 9 courses in political science, to be distributed as follows:

Introductory Courses

Students must take two of the following introductory courses Beginning in the Fall 2025 semester, Columbia College and School of General Studies students completing majors or minors in Political Science must complete their required introductory courses at the Columbia Department of Political Science, and not at Barnard. The Columbia introductory courses are:

POLS UN2201	Introduction to American Politics
POLS UN2501	Introduction to Comparative Politics
POLS UN2601	International Politics
POLS UN2101	Political Theory I

Introductory courses completed at Barnard or Columbia before the Fall 2025 semester may be offered to fulfill the introductory course requirement. Introductory courses offered before Fall 2025 are:

POLS UN1201	INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS
POLS UN1501	INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POLS UN1601	INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
POLS UN1101	POLITICAL THEORY I

NOTE: Introductory courses taken that do not fit into the Primary or Secondary Subfield will be counted in the Political Science Elective category.

Primary Subfield

Minimum three courses.

Minor Subfield

Minimum two courses.

Seminars

Two 4-point 3000-level seminars, at least one of which is in the student's Primary Subfield.

(See "Seminars" section below for more information)

Research Methods *

Minimum one course in research methods. Courses that satisfy the research methods requirement are:

POLS UN3220	LOGIC OF COLLECTIVE CHOICE
POLS UN3289	Media and Data in American Politics
POLS UN3704	RESEARCH DESIGN: DATA ANALYSIS
POLS UN3720	RESEARCH DESIGN: SCOPE AND METHODS
POLS UN3706	EMPIRICAL RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLS UN3768	Experimental Research
POLS GU4710	PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 1
POLS GU4712	PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2
POLS GU4716	Data Science for Political Analytics
POLS GU4720	QUANT METH 1 APPL REG CAUS INF
POLS GU4722	QUANT METH 2 STAT THEO#CAUS INF
POLS GU4724	QUANT METH 3 EXPERIMENTAL METH
POLS GU4726	QUANT METH 4 TOPICS IN METHODS
POLS GU4762	Politics in the Lab
POLS GU4764	Design and Analysis of Sample Surveys
POLS GU4790	Advanced Topics in Quantitative Research
POLS GU4792	Quantitative Methods: Research Topics

Political Science Electives

Minimum one course (in any subfield).

* Students must complete the methods requirement by the end of the junior year. A student may fulfill the research methods requirement with another course inside or outside the department only with the advance written permission of the Director of Graduate Studies or the department's undergraduate adviser. If a course outside the Department of Political Science is used to satisfy the research methods requirement, this same course cannot be used to fulfill requirements of another major, concentration or program.

Seminars

Students are expected to take two 3000-level 4-point seminars. They may choose from among the seminars offered, though at least one of the seminars taken must be in the student's Primary Subfield (that in which at least 9 other points have been completed). Entry into seminars requires the instructor's permission.

For detailed seminar registration guidelines, see [the department website](#). Seminars cannot be taken for R credit or Pass/D/Fail.

Barnard colloquia are open to students with the permission of the instructor. However, Barnard colloquia may **not** be used to fulfill the seminar requirement, though they may be used to fulfill subfield or

elective requirements. Note that admission to Barnard colloquia is by application to the Barnard Political Science Department only. Please consult with the Barnard Political Science Department for more information.

Major in Economics–Political Science

The major in economics-political science is an interdisciplinary major that introduces students to the methodologies of economics and political science and stresses areas of particular concern to both. This program is particularly beneficial to students planning to do graduate work in schools of public policy and international affairs.

Two advisers are assigned for the interdepartmental major, one in the Department of Economics and one in the Department of Political Science. Please note that the economics adviser can only advise on economics requirements and the political science adviser can only advise on political science requirements.

Course Requirements

For the political science part of the major, students must choose a **Primary Subfield** and a **Secondary Subfield** to study. The corresponding introductory courses in both subfields must be taken, plus two electives in the Primary Subfield and one in the Secondary Subfield. The subfields are as follows:

- American Politics (AP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

The economics–political science major requires a total of 59 points: 22 points in economics, 17 points in political science, 6 points in mathematics, 6 points in statistical methods, 4 points in a political science seminar, and 4 points in the interdisciplinary seminar as follows:

Core Requirements in Economics

Students must take all of the following core economics courses:

ECON UN1105	PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS
ECON UN3211	INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS
ECON UN3213	INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS
ECON UN3412	INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMETRICS
or POLS GU4712	PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2
ECON GU4370	POLITICAL ECONOMY

Core Requirements in Mathematics and Statistics

Students must take all of the following core mathematics and statistics courses:

MATH UN1101	CALCULUS I
MATH UN1201	CALCULUS III
STAT UN1201	CALC-BASED INTRO TO STATISTICS

Economics Electives

Students must take two electives at the 3000 level or higher in the Department of Economics.

Political Science Courses

Students must choose a Primary Subfield and a Secondary Subfield to study. The subfields are as follows: American Politics (AP), Comparative Politics (CP), International Relations (IR), and Political Theory (PT).

Primary Subfield: Minimum three courses, one of which must be the subfield's introductory course.

Secondary Subfield: Minimum two courses, one of which must be the subfield's introductory course.

Beginning in the Fall 2025 semester, Columbia College and School of General Studies students completing majors or minors in Political Science must complete their required introductory courses at the Columbia Department of Political Science, and not at Barnard. The Columbia introductory courses have been renumbered. The new courses are: POLS UN2101, Political Theory I POLS UN2201, Introduction to American Politics POLS UN2501, Introduction to Comparative Politics POLS UN2601, International Politics. Introductory courses completed at Barnard and at Columbia before the Fall 2025 semester may be offered to fulfill the introductory course requirement.

Seminars

Students must take the following two seminars:

ECPS GU4921 SEMINAR IN POLITICAL ECONOMICS

and a Political Science Department seminar, in the student's Primary Subfield. Please select one of the following: *

POLS UN3911 SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY

POLS UN3921 AMERICAN POLITICS SEMINAR

POLS UN3951 COMPARATIVE POLITICS SEMINAR

POLS UN3961 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SEMINAR

* Students who wish to count toward the political science seminar requirement a course that is not in the above list of approved seminars must obtain permission from the political science Director of Undergraduate studies.

Barnard colloquia may not be used to fulfill the seminar requirement.

Note that admission to Barnard colloquia is by application to the

Barnard political science department only.

Major in Political Science–Statistics

The interdepartmental major of political science–statistics is designed for students who desire an understanding of political science to pursue advanced study in this field and who also wish to have at their command a broad range of sophisticated statistical tools to analyze data related to social science and public policy research.

Students should be aware of the rules regarding the use of the Pass/D/Fail option. Courses in which a grade of D has been received do not count toward the major requirements.

Political science–statistics students are eligible for all prizes reserved for political science majors.

The political science–statistics major requires a minimum of 15 courses in political science, statistics, and mathematics, to be distributed as follows:

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Primary Subfield

-Students must choose a Primary Subfield to study. Within the subfield, students must take a minimum of three courses, including the subfield's introductory course. The subfields and their corresponding introductory courses are as follows:

American Politics:	
POLS UN2201	Introduction to American Politics
Comparative Politics:	
POLS UN2501	Introduction to Comparative Politics
International Relations:	
POLS UN2601	International Politics
Political Theory:	
POLS UN2101	Political Theory I

Beginning in the Fall 2025 semester, Columbia College and School of General Studies students completing majors or minors in Political Science must complete their required introductory courses at the Columbia Department of Political Science, and not at Barnard. The Columbia introductory courses have been renumbered. The new courses are: POLS UN2101, Political Theory I POLS UN2201, Introduction to American Politics POLS UN2501, Introduction to Comparative Politics POLS UN2601, International Politics. Introductory courses completed at Barnard and at Columbia before the Fall 2025 semester may be offered to fulfill the introductory course requirement.

-Additionally, students must take one 4-point 3000-level seminar in their Primary Subfield.

Research Methods

-Students must take the following two research methods courses:

POLS GU4710	PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 1
or POLS UN3704	RESEARCH DESIGN: DATA ANALYSIS
POLS GU4712	PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2

STATISTICS

-Students must take one of the following sequences:

Sequence A — recommended for students preparing for graduate study in statistics¹

MATH UN1101	CALCULUS I
MATH UN1102	CALCULUS II
MATH UN2010	LINEAR ALGEBRA
STAT UN1201	CALC-BASED INTRO TO STATISTICS
STAT GU4203	PROBABILITY THEORY
STAT GU4204	STATISTICAL INFERENCE
STAT GU4205	LINEAR REGRESSION MODELS
STAT GU4206	STAT COMP # INTRO DATA SCIENCE

or

Sequence B — recommended for students preparing to apply statistical methods to other fields

STAT UN1101	INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS
STAT UN2102	Applied Statistical Computing
STAT UN2103	APPLIED LINEAR REG ANALYSIS
STAT UN2104	APPL CATEGORICAL DATA ANALYSIS
STAT UN3105	APPLIED STATISTICAL METHODS
STAT UN3106	APPLIED MACHINE LEARNING

Statistics Elective

-Students must take an approved elective in a statistics or a quantitatively oriented course in a social science.

1. Students taking Statistics Sequence A may replace the mathematics requirements with both MATH UN1207 HONORS MATHEMATICS A and MATH UN1208 HONORS MATHEMATICS B.

Minor in Political Science

Course Requirements

The minor in political science requires a minimum of 5 courses in political science, to be distributed as follows:

Introductory Courses

Students must take two of the following introductory courses. Beginning in the Fall 2025 semester, Columbia College and School of General Studies students completing majors or minors in Political Science must complete their required introductory courses at the Columbia Department of Political Science, and not at Barnard. The Columbia introductory courses are:

POLS UN2201	Introduction to American Politics
POLS UN2501	Introduction to Comparative Politics

POLS UN2601	International Politics
POLS UN2101	Political Theory I
Introductory courses completed at Barnard or Columbia before the Fall 2025 semester may be offered to fulfill the introductory course requirement. Introductory courses offered before Fall 2025 are:	
POLS UN1201	INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS
POLS UN1501	INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POLS UN1601	INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
POLS UN1101	POLITICAL THEORY I
Political Science Electives	
Minimum three courses (in any subfield)	

For students who entered Columbia in or before the 2023-24 academic year

Concentration in Political Science

Program of Study

To be planned with the department as soon as the student starts to register for courses toward the concentration. Students should not wait until they formally declare the concentration before meeting with an undergraduate adviser during the registration period to plan their programs for the concentration.

Concentration Requirements

Students must choose a **Primary Subfield** and a **Secondary Subfield** to study. The subfields are as follows:

- American Politics (AP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

The concentration in political science requires a minimum of 7 courses in political science, to be distributed as follows:

Introductory Courses

Students must take two of the following introductory courses. Beginning in the Fall 2025 semester, Columbia College and School of General Studies students completing majors or minors in Political Science must complete their required introductory courses at the Columbia Department of Political Science, and not at Barnard. The Columbia introductory courses are:

POLS UN2201	Introduction to American Politics
POLS UN2501	Introduction to Comparative Politics
POLS UN2601	International Politics
POLS UN2101	Political Theory I
Introductory courses completed at Barnard or Columbia before the Fall 2025 semester may be offered to fulfill the introductory course requirement. Introductory courses offered before Fall 2025 are:	
POLS UN1201	INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS
POLS UN1501	INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POLS UN1601	INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
POLS UN1101	POLITICAL THEORY I

NOTE: Introductory courses taken that do not fit into the Primary or Secondary Subfield will be counted in the Political Science Elective category.

Primary Subfield

Minimum two courses.

Secondary Subfield

Minimum two courses.

Research Methods *

Minimum one course in research methods. Courses that satisfy the methods requirement are:

POLS UN3220	LOGIC OF COLLECTIVE CHOICE
POLS UN3289	Media and Data in American Politics
POLS UN3704	RESEARCH DESIGN: DATA ANALYSIS
POLS UN3706	EMPIRICAL RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLS UN3720	RESEARCH DESIGN: SCOPE AND METHODS
POLS UN3768	Experimental Research
POLS GU4710	PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 1
POLS GU4712	PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2
POLS GU4720	QUANT METH 1 APPL REG CAUS INF
POLS GU4722	QUANT METH 2 STAT THEO#CAUS INF
POLS GU4724	QUANT METH 3 EXPERIMENTAL METH
POLS GU4726	QUANT METH 4 TOPICS IN METHODS
POLS GU4762	Politics in the Lab
POLS GU4764	Design and Analysis of Sample Surveys
POLS GU4790	Advanced Topics in Quantitative Research
POLS GU4790	Advanced Topics in Quantitative Research
POLS GU4792	Quantitative Methods: Research Topics

Political Science Electives

Minimum two courses (in any subfield).

* Students must complete the methods requirement by the end of the junior year. A student may fulfill the research methods requirement with another course inside or outside the department only with the advance written permission of the Director of Graduate Studies or the department's undergraduate adviser. If a course outside the Department of Political Science is used to satisfy the research methods requirement, this same course cannot be used to fulfill requirements of another major, concentration or program.

American Politics

POLS UN1201 INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS. 4.00 points.

Lecture and discussion. Dynamics of political institutions and processes, chiefly of the national government. Emphasis on the actual exercise of political power by interest groups, elites, political parties, and public opinion

POLS UN2201 Introduction to American Politics. 4.00 points.

In this course, students will gain familiarity with some of the major questions and theoretical frameworks in the American Politics subfield of political science and learn how to think theoretically and empirically about politics

Fall 2025: POLS UN2201

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 2201	001/14153	M W 6:10pm - 7:25pm 501 Schermerhorn Hall	David McGrath	4.00	143/180

Spring 2026: POLS UN2201

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 2201	001/12568	M W 6:10pm - 7:25pm Room TBA	David McGrath	4.00	0/180

POLS UN3210 JUDICIAL POLITICS. 3.00 points.

This political science course provides an introduction to the politics of judges, courts, and law in the United States. We will evaluate law and courts as political institutions and judges as political actors and policy-makers. The topics we will study include what courts do; how different legal systems function; the operation of legal norms; the U.S. judicial system; the power of courts; constraints on judicial power; judicial review; the origin of judicial institutions; how and why Supreme Court justices make the decisions they do; case selection; conflict between the Court and the other branches of government; decision making and conflict within the judicial hierarchy; the place of courts in American political history; and judicial appointments. We will explore some common but not necessarily true claims about how judges make decisions and the role of courts. One set of myths sees judges as unbiased appliers of neutral law, finding law and never making it, with ideology, biography, and politics left at the courthouse door. Another set of myths sees the judiciary as the "least dangerous branch," making law, not policy, without real power or influence. Our thematic questions will be: How much power and discretion do judges have in the U.S.? What drives their decision-making?

POLS UN3213 AMERICAN URBAN POLITICS. 3.00 points.

This course examines the pattern of political development in urban America, as the country's population has grown in urbanized locations. It explores the process by which cities and suburbs are governed, how immigrants and migrants are incorporated, and how people of different races and ethnicities interact in urbanized settings as well as the institutional relations of cities and suburbs with other jurisdictions of government. The course focuses both on the historical as well the theoretical understandings of politics in urban areas

Spring 2026: POLS UN3213

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3213	001/12574	M W 6:10pm - 7:25pm Room TBA	Carlos Vargas-Ramos	3.00	0/90

POLS UN3220 LOGIC OF COLLECTIVE CHOICE. 3.00 points.

Much of politics is about combining individual preferences or actions into collective choices. We will make use of two theoretical approaches. Our primary approach will be social choice theory, which studies how we aggregate what individuals want into what the collective wants.; The second approach, game theory, covers how we aggregate what individuals want into what the group gets, given that social, economic, and political outcomes usually depend on the interaction of individual choices. The aggregation of preferences or choices is usually governed by some set of institutional rules, formal or informal. Our main themes include the rationality of individual and group preferences, the underpinnings and implications of using majority rule, tradeoffs between aggregation methods, the fairness of group choice, the effects of institutional constraints on choice (e.g. agenda control), and the implications for democratic choice. Most of the course material is highly abstract, but these abstract issues turn up in many real-world problems, from bargaining between the branches of government to campus elections to judicial decisions on multi-member courts to the allocation of relief funds among victims of natural disasters to the scoring of Olympic events. The collective choice problem is one faced by society as a whole and by the smallest group alike

POLS UN3222 THE AMERICAN CONGRESS. 3.00 points.

Prerequisites: *POLS W1201* or the equivalent, or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: POLS W1201 or the equivalent, or the instructors permission. Inquiry into the dynamics, organization, and policy-making processes of the American Congress. Particular emphasis on the relationship of legislators to constituents, lobbyists, bureaucrats, the president, and with one another

POLS UN3225 AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL HISTOR. 4.00 points.

This Course is intended to look at key developments of American History through the prism of Supreme Court decisions and their aftermath. In essence, this Course will address three questions: 1. How did the Supreme Court reflect, and affect, historic patterns of U.S. development, and how did it impact the legal and economic framework of the United States? 2. How did the Supreme Court respond to, or worsen, crises in U.S. history? 3. How did the perception of individual and collective rights and liberties, and of the function and role of Governments – both Federal and State – evolve over time?

Spring 2026: POLS UN3225

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3225	001/12576	T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm Room TBA	Robert Tortoriello	4.00	0/20

POLS UN3245 RACIAL AND ETHNIC POLITICS. 3.00 points.

This course examines the role of race in American politics and the political behavior of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. Topics will include, but are not limited to, minority political participation, segregation, gentrification, group identity, implicit bias, political representation, media effects, and the role of race in political campaigns

POLS UN3250 VOTING # POLITICAL BEHAVIOR. 3.00 points.

Fall 2025: POLS UN3250

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3250	001/13994	T Th 10:10am - 11:25am 142 Uris Hall	Yamil Velez	3.00	93/100

POLS UN3255 RACE AND THE US CARCERAL SYSTEM. 3.00 points.

This course will introduce students to research on the institutions of the US carceral system, including the police, courts, prisons, and immigration control. We will focus on two questions: how race relates to experiences with the institutions of the carceral state, and how those institutions in turn influence racial politics. The main objective is not the accumulation of factual knowledge about this system, but familiarity with theoretical frameworks with which to make and critically assess arguments about the functioning of carceral institutions as they relate to racialized people and the functioning of democracy

POLS UN3260 LATINO POLITICAL EXPERIENCE. 3.00 points.

This course focuses on the political incorporation of Latinos into the American polity. Among the topics to be discussed are patterns of historical exclusion, the impact of the Voting Rights Act, organizational and electoral behavior, and the effects of immigration on the Latino national political agenda

POLS UN3285 FREEDOM OF SPEECH # PRESS. 3.00 points.

Examines the constitutional right of freedom of speech and press in the United States. Examines, in depth, various areas of law, including extremist or seditious speech, obscenity, libel, fighting words, the public forum doctrine, and public access to the mass media. Follows the law school course model, with readings focused on actual judicial decisions

Fall 2025: POLS UN3285

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3285	001/14101	T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm Cin Alfred Lerner Hall	Lee Bollinger	3.00	184/199

POLS UN3290 VOTING AND AMERICAN POLITICS. 3.00 points.

Elections and public opinion; history of U.S. electoral politics; the problem of voter participation; partisanship and voting; accounting for voting decisions; explaining and forecasting election outcomes; elections and divided government; money and elections; electoral politics and representative democracy.

POLS GU4240 Great Books on Race, Politics and Society. 4 points.

This seminar introduces students to classic works on race, social science, and public policy. The course will explore how social scientists have defined and constructed the conditions of black communities and how those definitions and constructions have varied and influenced policy debates over time. Students are required to write an original research paper on a policy area that examines the tensions between individual and structural explanations for the persistence of racial inequality.

Spring 2026: POLS GU4240

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4240	001/12607	Th 12:10pm - 2:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Fredrick Harris	4	0/20

POLS GU4242 Political Economy of the Public Sector. 3.00 points.

Virtually all government policies depend on organizations to execute and evaluate them. Effective public management therefore depends crucially on an understanding of how organizations work. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the institutional basis of public policy and administration. A major theme throughout is that explaining organizational outcomes requires the understanding of the relevant political actors, and the institutions, or "rules of the game" within which they function. Expanding on this theme will allow us to explain many features of political organizations, including some that may appear (at first glance) to be pathological. The study of organizations is multi-disciplinary in nature, and as a result the course draws upon a range of literature from economics, political science, and psychology. It will focus particularly on applications of behavioral economics and game theory. The course readings and the student assignments will provide ample opportunities for seeing how theoretical arguments are developed and tested. The objective is to give students not only a working knowledge of how public sector organizations work, but also the ability to utilize it across a broad range of settings. The course begins by considering different models of individual and collective behavior. With these tools in place, it then proceeds to study the internal structures of organizations and their management implications. Economic principal-agent theory will guide this discussion. Next, it will examine the impact of the external environment on organizations. Finally, it will consider some prospects for reform

American Politics Seminars

POLS UN3921 AMERICAN POLITICS SEMINAR. 4.00 points.

Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. Pre-registration is not permitted.

Prerequisites: the instructors permission. Pre-registration is not permitted. Seminar in American Politics Seminar. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: <https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars>

Fall 2025: POLS UN3921

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3921	001/14966	T 6:10pm - 8:00pm 317 Hamilton Hall	Robert Amdur	4.00	18/20
POLS 3921	004/14964	M 12:10pm - 2:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Judith Russell	4.00	19/20
POLS 3921	005/14970	Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm 401 Hamilton Hall	John Sivoletta	4.00	18/20
POLS 3921	006/14005	W 4:10pm - 6:00pm 328 Uris Hall	Michael Ting	4.00	16/20
POLS 3921	007/14967	W 6:10pm - 8:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Carlos Vargas-Ramos	4.00	18/20
POLS 3921	008/14006	T 12:10pm - 2:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Fredrick Harris	4.00	7/20

Spring 2026: POLS UN3921

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3921	001/12590	T 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA	Robert Amdur	4.00	0/20
POLS 3921	002/12591	T 8:10am - 10:00am Room TBA	Greg Bovitz	4.00	0/20
POLS 3921	003/12592	T 12:10pm - 2:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Fredrick Harris	4.00	0/20
POLS 3921	004/12593	M 4:10pm - 6:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Eunji Kim	4.00	0/20
POLS 3921	005/12594	W 10:10am - 12:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Lincoln Mitchell	4.00	0/20
POLS 3921	006/12595	M 12:10pm - 2:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Judith Russell	4.00	0/20
POLS 3921	007/12596	M 10:10am - 12:00pm Room TBA	Yamil Velez	4.00	0/20

Comparative Politics

POLS UN1501 INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS. 4.00 points.

This course provides a broad overview of the comparative politics subfield by focusing on important substantive questions about the world today. The course is organized around four questions. First, why can only some people depend upon the state to enforce order? Second, how can we account for the differences between autocracies and democracies? Third, what different institutional forms does democratic government take? Finally, are some institutions more likely than others to produce desirable social outcomes such as accountability, redistribution, and political stability?

POLS UN2501 Introduction to Comparative Politics. 4.00 points.

The course provides a broad overview of the comparative politics subfield by focusing on important substantive questions about the world today. Particular attention will be paid to understanding differences between democracies and autocracies, on one hand, and between different forms of democracy, on the other. What influences whether countries become and/or stay democratic? On this basis, should we expect China to democratize? Why do we care if a country is democratic or not? Do democracies perform better (or worse) than non-democracies in policy areas of importance? What is "good representation" and how do political institutions affect the prospects for achieving it? How does the choice of democratic institutions influence the prospects for stable and successful democracy? Are there particular institutional forms that are appropriate in particular contexts (such as ethnically divided Iraq), or do cultural factors overwhelm institutional considerations? In addressing these broad questions, the course has three ancillary goals. The first is to teach students how to pose and evaluate falsifiable theoretical arguments about substantive questions of interest. The second is to introduce the quantitative, formal and qualitative methodologies that political scientists use to develop and evaluate arguments. Finally, the course will require students to develop knowledge of the political systems of a number of foreign countries

Fall 2025: POLS UN2501

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 2501	001/13972	M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm 501 Schermerhorn Hall	John Huber	4.00	121/150

POLS UN3528 NEW/OLD FORMS OF POL PROTEST. 3.00 points.

This course will introduce the students to the important topic of political protest. Each week we will address different aspects of the phenomenon: from the determinant to the actors and strategies of protest. We will discuss how the forms of protest have changed and the current role of the internet in general and social media in particular. Finally, we will discuss the role of the state and state repression, in particular censorship in the dynamics of protest. Since this is a comparative politics course, we will cover a range of different countries, including the United States, as well as both democratic and authoritarian regimes

Spring 2026: POLS UN3528

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3528	001/12579	T Th 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Chiara Superti	3.00	0/40

POLS UN3534 AUTOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY. 3.00 points.

With longstanding democracies in Europe and the US faltering, autocratic regimes in Russia and China consolidating, and hybrid regimes that mix elements of democracy and autocracy on the rise, scholars, policymakers, and citizens are re-evaluating the causes and consequences of different forms of government. This course is designed to give students the tools to understand these trends in global politics. Among other topics, we will explore: How do democracies and autocracies differ in theory and in practice? Why are some countries autocratic? Why are some democratic? What are the roots of democratic erosion? How does economic inequality influence a country's form of government? Is the current period of institutional foment different past periods of global instability? This course will help students keep up with rapidly unfolding events, but is designed primarily to help them develop tools for interpreting and understanding the current condition of democracy and autocracy in the world

Spring 2026: POLS UN3534

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3534	001/12580	M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA	Timothy Frye	3.00	0/60

POLS GU4423 POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS OF ELITES # INSTITUTIONS. 4.00 points.

This course examines political institutions and elite behavior from a political economy perspective. This course has three core goals. First, the substantive goal is to familiarize students with foundational theoretical arguments and frontier empirical evidence pertaining to central questions in political economy relating to political elite and institutions. Second, the methodological goal is to empower students to implement research designs that can effectively address the substantive questions driving their research. Third, the professionalization goal is to expose students to the academic processes of writing reviews, replicating and extending others' studies, presenting research projects, and writing original research designs or academic papers

POLS GU4439 State and Society in Ukraine. 4.00 points.

This course deals with the functioning of the state and society in post-Soviet Ukraine, from its peaceful establishment in 1991 to its affirmation and revision in the crucible of the war with neoimperial Russia since 2014. On the one hand, it examines the formation and subsequent transformation of the state, including the branches of government, the party system, elections, foreign policy, education and social welfare. On the other hand, it discusses various facets of society such as religion, media, language use, gender relations, poverty, racism, etc. In tracing the relations between the state and society on a rocky road from totalitarianism to democracy, particular attention is paid to two upsurges of popular protest against state abuse, namely the Orange and Euromaidan revolution and subsequent attempts to empower society and strengthen its control over the state. No less prominent will be discussions of two military interventions by Russia seeking to keep Ukraine its sphere of influence, the annexation of Crimea and the instigation of a separatist conflict in the Donbas in 2014, and the full-blown invasion in 2022, and the Ukrainian state and society's responses to these interventions

POLS GU4453 POLITICS IN RUSSIA. 3.00 points.

This course begins by studying the late Soviet era—the 1970s through the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991—in order to understand what kind of political system and political culture Russia inherited. We spend some time analyzing why and how the Soviet Union—a superpower for 75 years—disintegrated suddenly and for the most part, peacefully. Then, the bulk of the course focuses on state-building in the Russian Federation. Russia's effort to construct new political institutions, a functioning economy, and a healthy society represents one of the greatest political dramas of our time. Beginning with Yeltsin's presidency in 1991 and continuing through the current eras of Putin, Medvedev, and Putin again, we consider phenomena such as economic reform, nationalism, separatism, federalism, war, legal reform, civil society, and democratization. The third part of the course addresses Russia's foreign relations. Like its predecessor states, the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, Russia is concerned with what kind of state it is (or should be) and where it stands in the international order. We will study how Russian elites make sense of Russia's identity, as well as Russia's policies toward the US, Europe, its "near abroad," the Middle East, and China

POLS GU4455 Russian Politics: How Autocracy Works. 3.00 points.

This course is designed to give students the tools to understand the politics of post-Soviet Russia through the lens of theories of modern autocracy and by putting Russian in comparative perspective. Among other topics, we will explore: Why did the Soviet Union collapse? Why was economic reform in Russian in the 1990s so difficult? How does autocracy influence economic development? How does Russia's autocracy work? Why has Russia become increasingly repressive in the Putin era? Why did Russia invade Ukraine in 2022? What are the prospects for political change? How does economic inequality influence a country's form of government? In addition to answering these questions, we will also examine the many difficult challenges in identifying the causes and consequences of studying autocracy. The course not only hopes to use modern theories of autocracy to understand Russia, but also to use the Russian case to build theories of modern autocracy. This course will help students keep up with rapidly unfolding events but is designed primarily to help them develop tools for interpreting and understanding the politics of autocratic Russia

POLS GU4457 Russian Propaganda Dom # Global Politics. 4.00 points.

Propaganda is a key tool of contemporary authoritarian politics. Autocrats such as Russia's Vladimir Putin, China's Xi Jinping, or Hungary's Viktor Orbán use state-controlled media to manipulate citizens, and some of them extensively rely on propaganda to undermine democracy in other countries. This course encourages students to think about the specific roles that media and propaganda play in autocracies, focusing on Russia in particular. We will read and discuss cutting-edge empirical research in political science and media studies to understand how autocrats such as Putin manipulate public opinion, why their propaganda can be successful, what its limits are, and how we can spot authoritarian propaganda in practice

POLS GU4461 Latin American Politics. 4 points.

This is a lecture class that seeks to introduce students to social scientific analysis while discuss the shifting dynamics of political representation in Latin America. In analyzing political representation in the region, it focuses on demands for political inclusion by different actors and how they were resisted or accepted by established elites in a process that moved from regime change to electoral rotation in power. The course covers these political dynamics and their institutional consequences since the onset of the twentieth century, starting with the Mexican Revolution, until the contemporary period where democracy is the predominant form of government and elections a crucial tool for social and political change. While analyzing the politics of Latin America, we will cover important political science concepts associated with democratic representation, social inclusion and the rule of the law, such as social movement mobilization, political regime change, presidentialism, political party systems, political identities, state capacity, and institutional weakness.

POLS GU4471 CHINESE POLITICS. 3.00 points.

This course offers a historical and thematic survey of Chinese politics and of salient issues in China's public policy and governance. The first half of the course reviews the patterns and dynamics of political development in China, focusing mainly on the last two hundred years, during which the country has been on a rugged yet fascinating path toward modernity. We will examine major political events including the collapse of the Imperial China, the rise of the Communist Party, the Cultural Revolution, and the post-Mao shift toward reform and opening. The second half of the course will look various special topics, including the structure of the party and the state, the relationship between state and society, the modes of economic development, and the governance of the media and the Internet. Throughout the course, special attention will be paid to how China's domestic political and economic processes intersected with major world events and transnational forces, such as imperialism, world wars, and economic globalization

POLS GU4472 JAPANESE POLITICS. 4.00 points.

This course surveys key features of the Japanese political system, with a focus on political institutions and processes. Themes include party politics, bureaucratic power, the role of the Diet, voting behavior, the role of the state in the economy, and the domestic politics of foreign policy

POLS GU4496 CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN POLITICS. 3.00 points.

This course aims to teach students what, if any, answers social scientists have to the questions that concern anyone with an interest in African politics: 1) Why have democratic governments flourished in some countries and not others? 2) What institutions may enable Africans to hold their leaders accountable? 3) How do people participate in politics? 4) In what ways do aspiring African political leaders build public support? 5) To what extent does persistent poverty on the continent have political causes? and 6) Why is violence used to resolve some political disputes and not others?

Fall 2025: POLS GU4496

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4496	001/16104	M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm 602 Northwest Corner	Shana Warren	3.00	8/20

Comparative Politics Seminars

POLS UN3951 COMPARATIVE POLITICS SEMINAR. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: POLS V1501 or the equivalent, and the instructors permission. Pre-registration is not permitted. Please see here for detailed seminar registration guidelines: <http://polisci.columbia.edu/undergraduate-programs/seminar-registration-guidelines>. Seminar in Comparative Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list

Fall 2025: POLS UN3951

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3951	001/14008	T 2:10pm - 4:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Caterina Chiopris	4.00	12/20
POLS 3951	002/14007	W 12:10pm - 2:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Beatrice Bonini	4.00	15/20

Spring 2026: POLS UN3951

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3951	001/12597	T 8:10am - 10:00am 711 International Affairs Bldg	Chiara Superti	4.00	0/20

International Relations

POLS UN1601 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. 4.00 points.

This introductory course surveys key topics in the study of international politics, including the causes of war and peace; the efficacy of international law and human rights; the origins of international development and underdevelopment; the politics of global environmental protection; and the future of US-China relations. Throughout the course, we will focus on the interests of the many actors of world politics, including states, politicians, firms, bureaucracies, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations; the interactions between them; and the institutions in which they operate. By the end of the semester, students will be better equipped to systematically study international relations and make informed contributions to critical policy debates

POLS UN2601 International Politics. 4.00 points.

Why do countries go to war? What conditions foster international cooperation? How do alliances between countries function? How are countries affected by global trade and investment, and in turn how does the political economy of individual countries shape international conflict and cooperation? How do ideas and culture (including both positive ideas like human rights and negative ideas like racism) affect international politics? What role do individuals and groups play in shaping international politics? What explains the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic? Why isn't there significant cooperation on climate change, and can a new global cooperation emerge? What issues have garnered international attention, and how has that shaped the countries' cooperation? What causes terrorism? Is the proliferation of nuclear (or cyber) weapons a threat to peace, and if so, how should the world respond? Does UN peacekeeping work? In this course we will begin to grapple with these questions. We will use theories developed by philosophers, political scientists and policy analysts, and we will examine the historical roots of today's problems, in order to explain and predict the patterns of international politics and the possibilities for change. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to choose and develop their own theories to explain events. Learning Objectives: By the end of the semester, students will accomplish the following: Demonstrate broad factual and causal knowledge of important current and historical issues in international relations. Apply contending theories from the political science literature and the policy world to analyze, compare, and evaluate events and trends in international relations. Assess the value of competing theories in explaining events. Synthesize facts and arguments across cases in order to reason critically and argue creatively, through both oral discussions in section and written essays

Fall 2025: POLS UN2601

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 2601	001/14155	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm 301 Uris Hall	Jayme Schlesinger	4.00	212/240

Spring 2026: POLS UN2601

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 2601	001/12570	T Th 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Jayme Schlesinger	4.00	0/240

POLS UN3619 NAT'L # CONTEMP WORLD POLITICS. 3.00 points.

The causes and consequences of nationalism. Nationalism as a cause of conflict in contemporary world politics. Strategies for mitigating nationalist and ethnic conflict

Spring 2026: POLS UN3619

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3619	001/12581	M W 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Jack Snyder	3.00	0/60

POLS UN3622 Ethnic Conflict. 3.00 points.

This course explores the origins and dynamics of ethnic conflict through the lens of several different theoretical approaches. How and where does ethnic conflict emerge and why does it endure? Is it greed or grievance, identity or interest? Why do some cases of ethnic tension and racial hatred boil over into bloodshed and carnage, while other conflict situations simmer well below the level of violence? Why are some inter-group conflicts so explosive and intractable while others yield to compromise and resolution? How is ethnic conflict influenced by factors such as religious nationalism, regime type, economic inequality, demographic shifts, and climate change? Leveraging a range of theoretical frameworks, students will engage with historical case studies and grapple with contemporary issues to understand the causes and conditions involved in conflict emergence, continuation, and resolution

Fall 2025: POLS UN3622

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3622	001/16084	M W 1:10pm - 2:25pm 403 International Affairs Bldg	Tenzin Dorjee	3.00	43/60

POLS UN3623 ENDING WAR # BUILDING PEACE. 3.00 points.

This course provides an introduction to the politics of war termination and peace consolidation. The course examines the challenges posed by ending wars and the process by which parties to a conflict arrive at victory, ceasefires, and peace negotiations. It explores how peace is sustained, why peace lasts in some cases and breaks down in others and what can be done to make peace more stable, focusing on the role of international interventions, power-sharing arrangements, reconciliation between adversaries, and reconstruction

POLS UN3648 GOVERNING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. 4.00 points.

Who governs the world economy? Why do countries succeed or fail to cooperate in setting their economic policies? When and how do international institutions help countries cooperate? When and why do countries adopt good and bad economic policies? This course examines how domestic and international politics determine how the global economy is governed. We will study the politics of trade, international investment, monetary, immigration, and environmental policies to answer these questions. The course will approach each topic by examining alternative theoretical approaches and evaluate these theories using historical and contemporary evidence. There will be an emphasis on applying concepts through the analysis of policy-relevant case studies designed specifically for this course

POLS UN3674 China's Technological Rise. 3.00 points.

This course examines the causes and consequences of China's rise as an economic and technological great power over the past four decades. It provides a theoretically-informed introduction to the political economy of contemporary China and to major debates surrounding China's relations with the United States and its allies and partners. Topics covered include Chinese industrial and innovation policies, China's capabilities in core technologies like semiconductors and artificial intelligence, the prospects for U.S.-China economic decoupling, the risk of conflict over Taiwan, the future trajectory of China's rise, and more. At the end of this course, students will have a strong understanding of the main features of modern Chinese political economy, how China's positions in the global economy and international system have changed in recent decades, and the implications of these transformations for U.S.-China strategic competition. They will also have learned to critically evaluate prominent theories in political science and international relations as they apply to China

POLS UN3692 Business # Politics in Globalized World. 3.00 points.

Companies (or, as we'll mostly refer to them, firms) play a number of important roles in both domestic and international politics; among other activities, they create jobs, engage in trade and investment, create social responsibility programs, lobby governments, and create much of the world's pollution. How should we think about firms as political actors? Why, when, and how do firms attempt to influence policymaking? And when do they succeed? In this course, we will study strategic collaboration, competition, and collusion between firms and governments in a range of settings and policy areas. To do so, we will draw on insights from international relations, economics, and business scholars, and we will frequently engage with current real-world examples of business-government relations. Topics will include (among others) lobbying, corporate social responsibility, taxation and tax avoidance, public-private governance, and corporate influence in foreign policy

Spring 2026: POLS UN3692

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3692	001/12584	M W 1:10pm - 2:25pm Room TBA	Calvin Thrall	3.00	0/60

POLS UN3685 The Rise of the Modern World Economy. 4.00 points.

Over the past thousand years, modern capitalism has expanded from its European starting point to the entire world. Modern economic activity started with a commercial revolution in the late Middle Ages, concentrated in European city states like Venice and Genoa. From the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries, European colonialism spread this commercial revolution around the globe. The Industrial Revolution in northwestern Europe led to unprecedented and sustained economic growth, which allowed European nations to dominate the rest of the world economically, politically, and militarily, with mixed results for the rest of the world. Over the past hundred years, global capitalism has continued to present countries, and the people in them, with enormous opportunities, crushing constraints, and major political dilemmas. The course is an introductory overview of the economics and politics of international economic activity in historical and theoretical perspective

Fall 2025: POLS UN3685

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3685	001/13995	T Th 10:10am - 11:25am Ren Kraft Center	Jeffrey Frieden	4.00	93/120

POLS UN3871 CHINA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS. 4.00 points.

This course will review and analyze the foreign policy of the People's Republic of China from 1949 to the present. It will examine Beijing's relations with the Soviet Union, the United States, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Third World during the Cold War, and will discuss Chinese foreign policy in light of the end of the Cold War, changes in the Chinese economy in the reform era, the post-Tiananmen legitimacy crisis in Beijing, and the continuing rise of Chinese power and influence in Asia and beyond. This lecture course will analyze the causes and consequences of Beijing's foreign policies from 1949 to the present. Students must register for a mandatory discussion section

POLS GU4814 GLOBAL ENERGY: SECURITY/GEOPOL. 3.00 points.

The course focuses on the nexus between energy and security as it reveals in the policies and interaction of leading energy producers and consumers. Topics include: Hydrocarbons and search for stability and security in the Persian Gulf, Caspian basin, Eurasia, Africa and Latin America; Russia as a global energy player; Analysis of the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on energy markets, global security, and the future of the energy transition; Role of natural gas in the world energy balance and European energy security; Transformation of the global energy governance structure; Role and evolution of the OPEC; Introduction into energy economics; Dynamics and fundamentals of the global energy markets; IOCs vs NOCs; Resource nationalism, cartels, sanctions and embargoes; Asia's growing energy needs and its geo-economic and strategic implications; Nuclear energy and challenges to non-proliferation regime; Alternative and renewable sources of energy; Climate change as one of the central challenges of the 21st century; Analysis of the policies, technologies, financial systems and markets needed to achieve climate goals. Climate change and attempts of environmental regulation; Decarbonization trends, international carbon regimes and search for optimal models of sustainable development. Special focus on implications of the shale revolution and technological innovations on U.S. energy security

Fall 2025: POLS GU4814

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4814	001/14965	M W 10:10am - 11:25am 606 Martin Luther King Building	Albert Bininachvili	3.00	31/30

POLS GU4845 NAT SECURITY STRAT OF MID EAST. 4.00 points.

At the crossroads of three continents, the Middle East is home to many diverse peoples, with ancient and proud cultures, in varying stages of political and socio-economic development, often in conflict. Following the Arab Spring and subsequent upheaval in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and more, the region is in a state of historic flux. The Sunni-Shia rivalry, especially between Saudi Arabia and Iran, growing Iranian-Israeli conflict, population explosion, poverty and authoritarian control, Russian ascendance and US retrenchment, are the primary regional drivers today. Together, these factors have transformed the Middle Eastern landscape, with great consequence for the national security of the countries of the region and their foreign relations. The primary source of the world's energy resources, the Middle East remains the locus of the terror-WMD-fundamentalist nexus, which continues to pose a significant threat to both regional and international security. The course surveys the national security challenges facing the region's primary players (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians and Turkey,) and how the convolutions of recent years have affected them. Unlike many Middle East courses, which focus on US policy in the region, the course concentrates on the regional players' perceptions of the threats and opportunities they face and the strategies they have adopted to deal with them. It thus provides an essential vantage point for those interested in gaining a deeper understanding of a region, which stands at the center of many of the foreign policy issues of our era. The course is designed for those with a general interest in the Middle East, especially those interested in national security issues, students of comparative politics and future practitioners, with an interest in real world international relations and national security

Fall 2025: POLS GU4845

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4845	001/16074	M 4:10pm - 6:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Charles Freilich	4.00	20/20

POLS GU4863 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. 4.00 points.

This course examines how domestic and international politics influence the economic policies of developing countries. We will critically evaluate different theoretical debates related to foreign economic policymaking in emerging markets, and introduce chief methodological approaches used in contemporary analyses. We will focus attention on different types of cross-border flows: the flow of goods (trade policy), the flow of people (immigration policy), the flow and location of production (foreign investment policy), the flow of capital (financial and monetary policy), and the flow of pollution (environment policy). In the process, we will address several themes that are central to understanding the politics of economic policymaking in emerging economies, including, the legacies of colonialism, trade protectionism and liberalization, globalization and the race to the bottom, the relationship between economic policy and culture, and development and redistribution. There will be an emphasis on applying concepts through the analysis of policy-relevant case studies designed for this course

POLS GU4865 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY. 4.00 points.

This course explores key frameworks and issue areas within international political economy. It examines the history and key characteristics of (economic) globalization, the theories of international cooperation, as well as the nature and role of international organizations (such as the World Trade Organization) in fostering trade and international economic cooperation. Furthermore, the course discusses the pros and cons of globalization and its implications on domestic policies of nation-states, with a particular focus on the tensions globalization creates and the lines of cleavages between winners and losers from globalization. Finally, the course reflects on the future of globalization and international trade and the challenges faced by national and supranational policy makers

Fall 2025: POLS GU4865

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4865	001/14969	T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 326 Uris Hall	Davit Sahakyan	4.00	28/40

International Relations Seminars

POLS UN3961 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SEMINAR. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: POLS UN1601 or the equivalent, and the instructors permission. Seminar in International Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: <https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars>

Fall 2025: POLS UN3961

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3961	001/14093	M 4:10pm - 6:00pm 1302 International Affairs Bldg	Jack Snyder	4.00	21/20
POLS 3961	002/15007	Th 12:10pm - 2:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	David Spiro	4.00	22/24
POLS 3961	003/14009	Th 10:10am - 12:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Allison Carnegie	4.00	17/20
POLS 3961	004/14010	T 10:10am - 12:00pm 1302 International Affairs Bldg	Calvin Thrall	4.00	22/20
POLS 3961	005/14240	Th 2:10pm - 4:00pm 1219 International Affairs Bldg	Sarah Daly	4.00	14/20
POLS 3961	006/15014	Th 6:10pm - 8:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Linda Kirschke	4.00	11/20
POLS 3961	008/18152	Th 8:10am - 10:00am 711 International Affairs Bldg	Zachary Shirkey	4.00	6/22

Spring 2026: POLS UN3961

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3961	001/12598	Th 10:10am - 12:00pm Room TBA	Sarah Daly	4.00	0/20
POLS 3961	002/12599	M 12:10pm - 2:00pm Room TBA	Giulio Gallarotti	4.00	0/20
POLS 3961	003/12600	W 2:10pm - 4:00pm Room TBA	Jean Krasno	4.00	0/20
POLS 3961	004/12601	M 8:10am - 10:00am 711 International Affairs Bldg	Jeremiah Pam	4.00	0/20
POLS 3961	005/12602	M 2:10pm - 4:00pm Room TBA	Davit Sahakyan	4.00	0/20
POLS 3961	007/12604	W 12:10pm - 2:00pm Room TBA	David Spiro	4.00	0/20

Political Theory

POLS UN1101 POLITICAL THEORY I. 4.00 points.

This course considers key questions at the foundation of political thought. What is justice? How do we justify the coercive power of states? Do we have an obligation to obey the government? Who should make and enforce the law? What basic rights and liberties should governments protect? How should our economic system produce and divide wealth and material resources? What are the claims of excluded or marginalized groups and how can these claims be addressed? We explore these questions through the works of several classical and contemporary political thinkers. A major goal of the course is to practice the skills needed to understand a political thinker's arguments and to construct one's own

POLS UN2101 Political Theory I. 4.00 points.

Political theory examines the ideas and institutions that shape political life. This course introduces key texts and arguments about the best way to organize political power, how it should be used, and for what purpose. We will address these larger questions by studying how major thinkers, ancient and modern, analyzed political diversity, division, and conflict. What are the sources of conflicting identities, interests, passions, and values in politics? How can partisanship and contestation avoid degenerating into open war and unjust domination? Which institutions, laws, and practices are best able to manage conflict consistent with other political goals, such as freedom, equality, justice? Course goals: Demonstrate broad knowledge of key texts, thinkers, concepts, and debates in the history of political thought; compare, contrast, and classify definitions of diversity and their political significance; interpret texts and reconstruct their core arguments and concepts; evaluate arguments, concepts, and theories in terms of consistency, plausibility, and desirability; develop persuasive interpretations and arguments through textual analysis; present and defend ideas and arguments clearly in writing and discussion

Fall 2025: POLS UN2101

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 2101	001/13962	M W 10:10am - 11:25am 833 Seeley W. Mudd Building	Nadia Urbinati	4.00	92/120

POLS UN3100 JUSTICE. 3.00 points.

An inquiry into the nature and implications of justice in areas ranging from criminal justice to social justice to the circumstances of war and peace, considering issues such as abortion, the criminalization of behavior, the death penalty, climate change, global poverty, civil disobedience, and international conflict

POLS UN3106 Democracy: Principles, Critics and Problems. 3.00 points.

This course is about democracy: its theory, principles, critics and challenges. After centuries of vilification, democracy acquired the status of the "best" political order thanks also to the defeat of Nazism and fascism, in 1945. The end of the Cold War and the international order created by the victors of World War II caused some major changes in the perception and practice of democracy. The world has become a unified place for financial markets and a borderless space for the implementation of hegemonic projects. Openness and globalization put pressure on the ideal and practice of democracy, however. On the one hand, democracy seems to be the solution to all problems so much so that "democracy" now means everything on the right side of history. On the other hand, it seems instead to be a source of problems, and many (even democrats) criticize it for being inefficient in decision-making, subject to the prejudices of increasingly uninformed and ignorant voters, and finally a system that breeds corruption. The goal of this course is to understand this conundrum. What are the basic principles of democracy and the main objections raised against it? In what sense does democracy embody universal values? Is it desirable that democracy contains partisanship with competence? Is populism a fate of modern democracies? These questions will guide us in understanding the promises of democracy and the disappointments of democrats. We will begin our intellectual journey with the ancient vision of democracy and its early critics, then explore the modern trajectory of democratic theory and finally contemporary populist transformations

Spring 2026: POLS UN3106

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3106	001/12573	M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA		3.00	0/90

POLS UN3112 GANDHI, KING # POLS OF NONVIOLENCE. 4.00 points.

Since Gandhi's experiments in mass satyagraha over a century ago, nonviolence has become a staple of protest politics across the globe. From the Occupy movements to the Arab Spring to Movement for Black Lives, it might even be entering a new phase of revitalization. At the same time, what exactly nonviolence is and what it can accomplish in politics is very much under debate. This course aims to understand the politics of nonviolence by examining the political ideas and political careers of its most well-known twentieth-century advocates, M.K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Though still venerated as founding figures of nonviolent protest, Gandhi and King have come to be remembered in ways that can misconstrue how they understood and practiced nonviolent politics. To many, Gandhi is a saintly idealist, who wanted to imbue politics with the spirit of ahimsa, truth, and conscience. Likewise, King is taken to be a spokesman for interracial brotherhood and Christian love. While partly true, these images also downplay the political side of their nonviolence – the techniques of organizing and strategies of protest that made their movements successful. We will examine the evolution of Gandhi's and King's political thinking in relation to the movements they led – the Indian independence movement and the civil rights movement in the US. We will consider how the theory and practice of nonviolence evolved and changed as it moved from one context to another. We will be especially focused on understanding the dynamics of nonviolent protest

Fall 2025: POLS UN3112

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3112	001/13983	T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm Cin Alfred Lerner Hall	Karuna Mantena	4.00	40/150

POLS UN3141 Humans, Nature and the Future: an Introduction to Environmental Political Theory. 3.00 points.

This course is about how we understand humans and their relationship to nature – and about how these understandings influence the ways we design our societies, run our democracies, and make plans for the future. We'll focus on two central themes. First: how does introducing a concern for 'the environment' (or the Earth, or ecology) deepen, and often complicate, our understanding of key concepts in political theory? Second: given that 'the environment' is an interdisciplinary issue, how do we understand the relationship between the ideas and conversations we have in political theory, and the ideas and conversations people are having in other disciplines? (For example: climate science.) There is no single prerequisite course for this one, but we will be assuming that you are familiar with the field of political theory in general. This is important, because many of our discussions will aim to map concepts and conversations from environmental political theory onto broader political theory conversations (which requires you to be familiar with those conversations!). Ideally, you'll have taken a political theory survey before you take this course. If you haven't, but you still think you've got the background necessary to participate fully in the class, please get in touch

POLS GU4110 RECENT CONTINENTAL POL THOUGHT. 4.00 points.

This course will compare and contrast the theories of the political, the state, freedom, democracy, sovereignty and law, in the works of the following key 20th and 21st century continental theorists: Arendt, Castoriadis, Foucault, Habermas, Kelsen, Lefort, Schmitt, and Weber. It will be taught in seminar format

POLS GU4132 POLIT THOUGHT-CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL. 3.00 points.

Prerequisites: Contemporary Civilization or a comparable introduction to political theory course. This course examines ancient political thought from its origins in the archaic Greek poleis through the development of classical Greek political philosophy and the transmission and adaptation of Greek political ideas in the Hellenistic, Roman, and early Christian traditions. Our texts will include major ancient works of political theory by Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero as well as works of poetry, drama, history, and ethical and natural philosophy that offer insight into ancient thought on politics. We will approach these texts not only as reflections on the ancient democratic, oligarchic, monarchical, and republican political systems they address, but also as foundations for modern political discourse that still prompt us to consider the questions they raise—questions about the ideal form of government in theory, and the best form in practice; about the nature of law and justice, and the relationship between law and custom, science, or religion; about the rule of law, and the rights and obligations of an individual citizen living in a participatory state; and about the reach of empire, and the implications when a self-governing people attempts to direct the affairs of non-citizens or of other states

Fall 2025: POLS GU4132

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4132	001/14971	T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm 313 Pupin Laboratories	Diana Moser	3.00	9/15

POLS GU4134 MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT. 4.00 points.

Interpretations of civil society and the foundations of political order according to the two main traditions of political thought—contraction and Aristotelian. Readings include works by Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Montesquieu, Hume, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Saint-Simon, Tocqueville, Marx, and Mill

Spring 2026: POLS GU4134

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4134	001/12605	M W 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Nadia Urbinati	4.00	0/40

Political Theory Seminars

POLS UN3911 SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY. 4.00 points.

Seminar in Political Theory. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: <https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars>

Fall 2025: POLS UN3911

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3911	002/14003	W 2:10pm - 4:00pm 522c Kent Hall	Clara Maier	4.00	18/20

Spring 2026: POLS UN3911

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3911	001/12589	T 2:10pm - 4:00pm Room TBA	Daniel Luban	4.00	0/20

Research Methods

POLS UN3704 RESEARCH DESIGN: DATA ANALYSIS. 3.00 points.

This course examines the basic methods data analysis and statistics that political scientists use in quantitative research that attempts to make causal inferences about how the political world works. The same methods apply to other kinds of problems about cause and effect relationships more generally. The course will provide students with extensive experience in analyzing data and in writing (and thus reading) research papers about testable theories and hypotheses. It will cover basic data analysis and statistical methods, from univariate and bivariate descriptive and inferential statistics through multivariate regression analysis. Computer applications will be emphasized. The course will focus largely on observational data used in cross-sectional statistical analysis, but it will consider issues of research design more broadly as well. It will assume that students have no mathematical background beyond high school algebra and no experience using computers for data analysis

Spring 2026: POLS UN3704

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3704	001/12585	M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA	Abdullah Aydogan	3.00	0/30

POLS UN3720 RESEARCH DESIGN: SCOPE AND METHODS. 4.00 points.

This class aims to introduce students to the logic of social scientific inquiry and research design. Although it is a course in political science, our emphasis will be on the science part rather than the political part – we'll be reading about interesting substantive topics, but only insofar as they can teach us something about ways we can do systematic research. This class will introduce students to a medley of different methods to conduct social scientific research

Fall 2025: POLS UN3720

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3720	001/14227	M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm 402 Chandler	Abdullah Aydogan	4.00	117/120

Spring 2026: POLS UN3720

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3720	001/12586	T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA	Caterina Chiopris	4.00	0/90

POLS UN3768 Experimental Research. 4.00 points.

Randomized experimentation is an important methodology in political science. In this course, we will discuss the logic of experimentation, its strengths and weaknesses compared to other methodologies, and the ways in which experimentation has been – and could be – used to investigate political phenomena. Students will learn how to interpret, design, and execute experiments

Spring 2026: POLS UN3768

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3768	001/12588	T Th 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Yamil Velez	4.00	0/40

PSAM UN3707 Persuasion at scale: causal inference, machine learning, and evidence-based understanding of the information environment. 3.00 points.

By employing statistical and computational methods, including randomized controlled trials, natural experiments, and machine learning techniques, students will engage directly with real-world data to uncover the intricacies of persuasion across different sectors, including but not limited to quantifying the effects of partisan media, social media, and political campaigns. The course will also delve into the historical evolution of these persuasive techniques, providing students with a rich contextual background to better understand current trends and anticipate future developments. This course fulfills the quantitative methods requirement for the Political Science major

Spring 2026: PSAM UN3707

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
PSAM 3707	001/12687	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA	Chris Wiggins, Eunji Kim	3.00	0/70

POLS GU4700 MATH # STATS FOR POLI SCI. 4.00 points.

This course presents basic mathematical and statistical concepts that are essential for formal and quantitative analysis in political science research. It prepares students for the graduate-level sequence on formal models and quantitative political methodology offered in the department. The first half of the course will cover basic mathematics, such as calculus and linear algebra. The second half of the course will focus on probability theory and statistics. We will rigorously cover the topics that are directly relevant to formal and quantitative analysis in political science such that students can build both intuitions and technical skills. There is no prerequisite since this course is ordinarily taken by Ph.D. students in their first semester. The course is aimed for both students with little exposure to mathematics and those who have taken some courses but wish to gain a more solid foundation. NOTE: This course does not satisfy the Political Science Major/Concentration research methods requirement

Fall 2025: POLS GU4700

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4700	001/16063	T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 707 Hamilton Hall	Benjamin Goodrich	4.00	4/20

POLS GU4702 Qualitative and Mixed Methods of Research Design and Inquiry. 4.00 points.

This course covers research methods and research design in political science. We cover concrete and practical issues of conducting research that are useful for all types of empirical political science research: picking a topic, generating hypotheses, case selection, measurement issues, and the ethics of research; with a focus on qualitative and mixed-methods tools such as: interviews, fieldwork, case studies, archival research, ethnographic work, designing and conducting experiments, coding data and working with data sets, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, etc. The course is designed for several audiences in Political Science, including: PhD students MA students undertaking a major research project or intending to continue on to the PhD Advanced undergraduates writing or contemplating an honors thesis, or another major research project

Spring 2026: POLS GU4702

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4702	001/12663	T 6:10pm - 8:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Virginia Page Fortna	4.00	0/20

POLS GU4710 PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 1. 4.00 points.

This course examines the basic methods of data analysis and statistics, through multivariate regression analysis, that political scientists use in quantitative research that attempts to make causal inferences about how the political world works. The same methods apply to other kinds of problems about cause and effect relationships more generally. The course will provide students with extensive experience in analyzing data and in writing (and thus reading) research papers about testable theories and hypotheses

Fall 2025: POLS GU4710

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4710	001/14014	T Th 8:40am - 9:55am 417 Mathematics Building	Robert Shapiro	4.00	59/60

POLS GU4712 PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: *POLS W4710* or the equivalent.

Prerequisites: POLS W4710 or the equivalent. This course will intensively examine some of the data analysis methods which deal with problems occurring in the use of multiple regression analysis. It will stress computer applications and cover, as needed, data coding and data processing. Emphasis will also be placed on research design and writing research reports. The course assumes that students are familiar with basic statistics, inference, and multiple regression analysis and have analyzed data using computer software (e.g., any standard statistical programs on micro-computers or larger machines -- Stata, "R", SPSS, SAS, etc.). Students will be instructed on the use of the microcomputers and the R and Stata statistical software program(s) available as freeware (R) or in the CUIT computer labs (Stata; several campus locations) or through SIPA. The lectures and required discussion section will emphasize the use of "R." Students may use whatever computer programs they prefer for all data analysis for the course. There may be an additional fee for classroom instructional materials

Spring 2026: POLS GU4712

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4712	001/12608	M W 5:40pm - 6:55pm Room TBA	Abdullah Aydogan	4.00	0/30

POLS GU4716 Data Science for Political Analytics. 3.00 points.

Prerequisites: (POLS GU4714) or

The digital revolution has created previously unimaginable opportunities to learn about political behavior and institutions. It has also created new challenges for analyzing the massive amounts of data that are now easily accessible. Open source software has reduced barriers and inequities in coding, but it also requires different kinds of effort to employ optimally the latest innovations. Harnessing the power of political data is more critical than ever, given the threats that misinformation and alternative "facts" present to democratic forms of government. This course will teach students both essential tools and general strategies of data science within the domain of politics. Whether students' goals are to analyze political behavior for academic or professional purposes, successful analysis requires skills for handling a wide array of issues that stand in the way of creating knowledge and insights from data. This course prioritizes breadth over depth in the sense that we will introduce a broad range of topics relevant for data science to develop basic skills and form a foundation that students can build on. More complete mastery of these skills will require additional engagement beyond this course

Fall 2025: POLS GU4716

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4716	001/16975	T Th 6:10pm - 7:25pm 407 Mathematics Building	Soubhik Barari	3.00	14/30

POLS GU4720 QUANT METH 1 APPL REG CAUS INF. 4.00 points.

Fitting and understanding linear regression and generalized linear models, simulation, causal inference, and the basics of design of quantitative studies. Computation in R. Textbook: Regression and Other Stories by Gelman, Hill, and Vehtari

Fall 2025: POLS GU4720

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4720	001/14015	M W 10:10am - 11:25am 608 Martin Luther King Building	Andrew Gelman	4.00	16/40

POLS GU4722 QUANT METH 2 STAT THEO#CAUS INF. 4.00 points.

This course is the second course in the graduate-level sequence on quantitative political methodology offered in the Department of Political Science. Students will learn (1) a framework and methodologies for making causal inferences from experimental and observational data, and (2) statistical theories essential for causal inference. Topics include randomized experiments, estimation under ignorability, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, difference-in-differences, and causal inference with panel data. We also cover statistical theories, such as theories of ordinary least squares and maximum likelihood estimation, by connecting them to causal inference methods. This course builds on the materials covered in POLS 4700 and 4720 or their equivalent (i.e., probability, statistics, linear regression, and logistic regression)

Spring 2026: POLS GU4722

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4722	001/12610	T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA	John Marshall	4.00	0/30

POLS GU4724 QUANT METH 3 EXPERIMENTAL METH. 4.00 points.
In this course, we will discuss the logic of experimentation, its strengths and weaknesses compared to other methodologies, and the ways in which experimentation has been — and could be — used to investigate social phenomena. Students will learn how to interpret, design, and execute experiments. Special attention will be devoted to field experiments, or randomized trials conducted in real-world settings. Prerequisites: Students should have taken at least one or two semesters of statistics. Some understanding of probability, hypothesis testing, and regression are assumed. Familiarity with statistical software such as R is helpful. We will be working with data in class throughout the term. The examples used in the textbook and lectures are written in R, and R tutorials will be taught in special sessions early in the term

Fall 2025: POLS GU4724

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4724	001/14018	T Th 5:40pm - 6:55pm 307 Uris Hall	Donald Green	4.00	17/40

POLS GU4726 QUANT METH 4 TOPICS IN METHODS. 4.00 points.
This course is the fourth course in the graduate-level sequence on quantitative political methodology offered in the Department of Political Science. Students will learn a variety of advanced topics in quantitative methods for descriptive and causal inference, such as simulated-data experimentation, statistical graphics, experimental design, Bayesian inference, multilevel modeling, ideal-point and measurement-error models, and time/spatial/network models. This course builds on the materials covered in POLS 4700, 4720, 4722, and 4724, or their equivalent courses (i.e., probability, statistics, linear regression, logistic regression, causal inference with observational and experimental data, and knowledge of the statistical computing environment R)

Spring 2026: POLS GU4726

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4726	001/12612	M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA	Andrew Gelman	4.00	0/30

POLS GU4728 Machine Learning # AI for the Social Sciences. 4.00 points.
This course serves as a modern, applied introduction to machine learning. Students will learn how to evaluate machine learning models and learn specific methods in supervised and unsupervised learning, including regression, ensembles, and neural networks. Other frontier topics with social science relevance will be presented. Topics will be of interest to researchers who are interested in prediction, causal inference, text analysis, and more. Students may use Python, R, or any coding language that requires only free software. Lectures and lecture notes will only include Python. Students should have prior experience with regression models, be comfortable with matrix algebra notation, and have experience with basic coding (R or Python, ideally). Learning goals: • Understand common machine learning models and be able to implement them. • Gain familiarity with the use of machine learning models in modern social science research. • Be able to identify research settings where different models might be appropriate. • Be able to read and interpret technical research papers, extracting the key methodological choices, assumptions, and results

Fall 2025: POLS GU4728

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4728	001/14021	M W 8:40am - 9:55am 333 Uris Hall	Alexander Clark	4.00	18/30

POLS GU4730 GAME THEORY # POLIT THEORY. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: POLS W4760 or equivalent level of calculus.
Prerequisites: POLS GU4700 or equivalent level of calculus. Introduction to noncooperative game theory and its application to strategic situations in politics. Topics include solution concepts, asymmetric information, and incomplete information. Students should have taken POLS GU4700 or have equivalent background in calculus. Permission of instructor required

Spring 2026: POLS GU4730

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4730	001/12614	M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA	John Huber	4.00	0/30

POLS GU4732 RESEARCH TOPICS IN GAME THEORY. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: POLS W4730 or the instructors permission. Advanced topics in game theory will cover the study of repeated games, games of incomplete information and principal-agent models with applications in the fields of voting, bargaining, lobbying and violent conflict. Results from the study of social choice theory, mechanism design and auction theory will also be treated. The course will concentrate on mathematical techniques for constructing and solving games. Students will be required to develop a topic relating political science and game theory and to write a formal research paper

Fall 2025: POLS GU4732

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 4732	001/14024	T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 327 Uris Hall	Carlo Prato	4.00	8/15

POLS GU4762 Politics in the Lab. 4 points.
The purpose of this course is to give students the chance to write an original research paper applying the methodology of lab experiments to political science questions. Experiments have become a standard tool in testing and refining theories, but designing and interpreting economic experiments requires care and practice.

POLS GU4768 Experimental Research: Design, Analysis and Interpretation. 4 points.
Prerequisites: one or two semesters of statistics; basic understanding of probability, hypothesis testing, and regression are assumed. Basic familiarity with statistical software (Stata and R) is helpful but not required.

In this course, we will discuss the logic of experimentation, its strengths and weaknesses compared to other methodologies, and the ways in which experimentation has been – and could be – used to investigate social phenomena. Students will learn how to interpret, design, and execute experiments.

Senior Honors Seminar

POLS UN3998 HONORS SEMINAR. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: admission to the departmental honors program.
Prerequisites: admission to the departmental honors program. A two-term seminar for students writing the senior honors thesis

Fall 2025: POLS UN3998

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3998	001/14011	M 10:10am - 12:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Shigeo Hirano	4.00	15/20

POLS UN3999 HONORS SEMINAR. 4.00 points.

A two-term seminar for students writing the senior honors thesis.

Spring 2026: POLS UN3999

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3999	001/12661	M 10:10am - 12:00pm 711 International Affairs Bldg	Shigeo Hirano	4.00	0/18

Independent Reading and Research

POLS UN3901 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH I. 1.00-6.00 points.

Fall 2025: POLS UN3901

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
POLS 3901	001/15006		Jeffrey Lax	1.00-6.00	2/2
POLS 3901	002/20154		Michael Ting	1.00-6.00	1/1
POLS 3901	003/20201		Andrew Nathan	1.00-6.00	2/2
POLS 3901	004/20451		Jeffry Frieden	1.00-6.00	1/1
POLS 3901	005/20461		Robert Shapiro	1.00-6.00	1/1
POLS 3901	006/20511		Fredrick Harris	1.00-6.00	1/1
POLS 3901	007/20515		Daniel Luban	1.00-6.00	1/1
POLS 3901	008/20538		Calvin Thrall	1.00-6.00	1/1
POLS 3901	009/20539		Elizabeth Saunders, Jayme Schlesinger	1.00-6.00	1/1
POLS 3901	010/20540		Karuna Mantena	1.00-6.00	1/1
POLS 3901	011/20541		Andrew Gelman	1.00-6.00	1/1

POLS UN3902 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH II. 1.00-6.00 points.

Of Related Interest

Economics

ECPS GU4921	SEMINAR IN POLITICAL ECONOMICS
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Human Rights

HRTS UN3001	INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS
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HRTS W3930